

Second Mosaic Speech: Specific Covenant Stipulations – Part 2 (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 15–18

The Sabbatical Year

15:1 “At the end of seven years you shall grant *a* remission of debt.

2 And this *is* the manner of the remission of debt: every creditor shall remit his claim that he holds against his neighbor, and he shall not exact payment *from* his brother because there *a* remission of debt has been proclaimed unto Yahweh.

3 *With respect to* the foreigner you may exact payment, but you must remit what shall be *owed to you with respect to* your brother.

4 Nevertheless, there shall not be among you a poor *person*, because Yahweh will certainly bless you in the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you *as* an inheritance, to take possession of it.

5 If only you listen well to the voice of Yahweh your God by observing diligently all of these commandments that I *am* commanding you today.

6 When Yahweh your God has blessed you, *just* as he promised to you, then you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow *from them*, and you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.

7 If *there* is a poor *person* among you from *among* one of your brothers in one of your towns that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you, you shall not harden your heart, and you shall not shut your hand toward your brother who is poor.

8 But you shall certainly open your hand for him, and you shall willingly lend *to him* enough to meet his need, whatever it is.

9 Take care so that there will not be a thought of wickedness in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of the remission of debt is near,’ and you view your needy neighbor with hostility, and *so* you *do* not give to him, and he might cry *out* against you to Yahweh, and you would incur guilt against yourself.

10 By all means you must give to him, and you must not be discontented at your giving to him, because on account of this *very* thing, Yahweh your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

11 For the poor will not cease to be among you *in* the land; therefore I *am* commanding you, saying, ‘You shall willingly open your hand to your brother, to your needy and to your poor *that are* in your land.’

12 If your relative who is a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman is sold to you, and *he or she* has served you six years, then in the seventh year you shall send that person *out* free.

13 And when you send him *out* free from you, you shall not send him *away* empty-handed.

14 You shall generously supply him from *among* your flocks and from your threshing floor and from your press; *according to* that *with which* Yahweh your God has blessed you, you shall give to him.

15 And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and Yahweh your God redeemed you; therefore I *am* commanding you thus today.

16 And then *if* it will happen *that* he says to you, ‘I do not want to go out from you,’ because he loves you and your family, because it is good for him *to be* with you;

17 then you shall take an awl, and you shall thrust *it* through his earlobe and into the door, and he shall be to you a slave forever; and you shall also do likewise for your slave woman.

18 It shall not be hard in your eyes when you send him forth free, because for six years he has served you *worth* twice the wage of a hired worker; and Yahweh your God will bless you in whatever you will do.

Firstborn Animals Consecrated to Yahweh

19 “Every firstling male that is born of your herd and of your flock you shall consecrate to Yahweh your God; you shall not do work with the firstling of your ox, and you shall not shear the firstling of your flock.

20 *Rather* before Yahweh your God you shall eat it year by year at the place Yahweh will choose, you and your household.

21 But if there is a physical defect in it, *such as* lameness or blindness, any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to Yahweh your God.

22 In your towns you shall eat it, the unclean and the clean together *may eat it, just as they eat* the gazelle and as *they eat* the deer.

23 But you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it on the ground like water.”

Spring Feast – The Passover (14th of First Month: Nisan) – Good Friday

16:1 “Observe the month of Abib, and you shall keep *the* Passover to Yahweh your God, for in the month of Abib Yahweh your God brought you out from Egypt *by* night.

2 And you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to Yahweh your God *from among your* flock and herd at the place that Yahweh will choose, to let his name dwell there.

Spring Feast – The Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th-22nd of First Month: Nisan) – Easter

3 You shall not eat with it anything leavened; seven days you shall eat with it unleavened bread of affliction, because in haste you went out from the land of Egypt, so that you will remember the day of your going out from the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

4 And leaven shall not be seen with you in any of your territory for seven days, and none of the meat that you will slaughter on the evening on the first day shall remain overnight until morning.

5 You are not allowed to offer the Passover sacrifice in one of your towns that Yahweh your God is giving to you,

6 but only at the place that Yahweh your God will choose, to let his name dwell there; you shall offer the Passover sacrifice in the evening at sunset, *at the* designated time of your going out from Egypt.

7 And you shall cook, and you shall eat *it* at the place that Yahweh your God will choose; and you may turn in the morning and go to your tents.

8 Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day *there shall be* an assembly for Yahweh your God; you shall not do work.

Spring Feast – The Feasts of Weeks – Pentecost

9 “You shall count *off* seven weeks for you; from the time you begin to harvest the standing grain you shall begin to count seven weeks.

10 And *then* you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks for Yahweh your God with the measure of the freewill offering of your hand that you shall give *just* as Yahweh your God has blessed you.

11 And you shall rejoice before Yahweh your God, you and your son and your daughter and your slave and your slave woman and the Levite that *is* in your towns and the alien and the orphan and the widow who are in your midst in the place that Yahweh your God will choose to let his name dwell there.

12 And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and so you shall diligently observe these rules.

Fall Feast – The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (15th-22nd of Seventh Month: Tishri)

13 “You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths for yourselves seven days at the gathering in of the produce from your threshing floor and from your press;

14 and you shall rejoice at your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your slave and your slave woman and the Levite and the orphan and the widow that *are* in your towns.

15 Seven days you shall celebrate *your* feast to Yahweh your God at the place Yahweh will choose, for Yahweh your God shall bless you in all of your produce and in all *of* the work of your hand, and you shall surely *be* rejoicing.

16 Three times in the year all *of* your males shall appear before Yahweh your God at the place that he will choose, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before Yahweh empty-handed.

17 Each *person* shall give as he is able, *that is*, according to the blessing of Yahweh your God that he has given to you.

Appointment of Judges and Officers

18 “You shall appoint judges and officials for you in all your towns that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you throughout your tribes, and you shall render *for* the people righteous judgments.

19 You shall not subvert justice; you shall not show partiality; and you shall not take a bribe, for the bribe makes blind *the* eyes of *the* wise and misrepresents *the* words of *the* righteous.

20 Justice, only justice you shall pursue, so that you may live, and you shall take possession of the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you.

Forbidden Worship Practices

21 You shall not plant for yourselves an Asherah pole beside the altar of Yahweh your God that you make for yourselves.

22 And you shall not set up for yourselves a stone pillar, *a thing* that Yahweh your God hates.

Prohibition of Defective Animal Sacrifices

17:1 “You shall not sacrifice to Yahweh your God an ox or sheep that has a physical defect of anything seriously wrong, for that *is* a detestable thing to Yahweh your God. [cf. [Mal 1:6–9](#)]

Death Penalty for Idolatry

2 If *there* is found in one of your towns that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you a man or a woman that does evil in the eyes of Yahweh your God to transgress his covenant

3 and by going and serving other gods and so he bows down to them and to the sun or to the moon or to any *of* the host of heaven which I have forbidden,

4 and it is reported to you or you hear *about it* and you enquire *about it* thoroughly and, indeed, *the* trustworthiness of the deed *has* been established, it has occurred, this detestable thing, in Israel,

5 then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil thing to your gates; that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them with stones to death.

6 On the evidence of two or three witnesses the person shall be put to death. The person shall not be put to death by the mouth of one witness. [[Matt 18:16](#); [Heb 10:28](#)]

7 The hand of the witnesses shall be first against the person to kill the person, and afterward the hands *of* all the people, and so you shall purge the evil from your midst. [[1 Cor 5:13](#)]

The Jurisdiction of the Central Tribunal

8 “If a matter is too difficult for you, *for example disputes* between blood and blood, between legal claim and legal claim and between assault and assault *and between* matters of discernment in your towns, then you shall get up and you shall go to the place that Yahweh your God will choose;

9 then you shall go to the priests and the Levites and to the judge who will be *in office* in those days, and you shall enquire, and they shall announce to you the verdict.

10 “And you shall carry out exactly the decision that they announced to you from that place that Yahweh will choose, and you shall diligently observe according to all that they instruct you.

11 *And so* according to the instruction of the law that they teach you and according to the decisions that they say to you, you shall do; you shall not turn from the word that they tell you to the right or *to the* left.

12 And the man who treats with contempt *so as* not to listen to the priest *who is* standing to minister on behalf of Yahweh your God or to the judge, that man shall die; so you shall purge the evil from Israel.

13 And all the people will hear and will be afraid, and they will not behave presumptuously again.

Laws Pertaining to Kingship

14 “When you have come to that land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you and you have taken possession of it and you have settled in it, and you say, ‘I will set over me a king like all the nations that *are* around me,’

15 indeed, you may set a king over you whom Yahweh your God will choose, from the midst of your countrymen you must set a king over you; you are not allowed to appoint over you a man, a foreigner, who *is* not your countryman.

16 Except, he may not make numerous for himself horses, and he may not allow the people *to go* to Egypt in order to increase horses, for Yahweh has said to you that you may never return.

17 And he must not acquire many wives for himself, so that his heart *would* turn aside; and he must not accumulate silver and gold for himself excessively.

18 “And then when he is sitting on the throne of his kingdom, then he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll before the Levitical priests.

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to revere Yahweh your God by diligently observing all the word of this law and these rules,

20 *so as* not to exalt his heart above his countrymen and not to turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left, so that he may reign long over his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”

Laws Pertaining to Levitical Inheritance

18:1 “And there shall not be for the Levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, a plot of ground and an inheritance with Israel, *rather* they may eat an offering made by fire *as* their inheritance, for Yahweh.

2 And there shall not be for them an inheritance *of land* in the midst of his brothers; *rather* Yahweh is his inheritance, *just* as he promised to them.

3 Now this shall be the share of the priest from the people, from those who sacrifice the sacrifice, *whether it is* an ox, sheep, or goat, and they shall give the priest the shoulder and the jawbones and the stomach.

4 The firstfruits of your grain, your wine, and your olive oil and the firstfruits of the fleece of your sheep you shall give to him.

5 For Yahweh your God has chosen him from *among* all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of Yahweh, he and his sons forever.

6 And if a Levite comes from one of your towns from anywhere in Israel where he is residing, he may come whenever he desires, to the place that Yahweh will choose,

7 and he may minister in the name of Yahweh his God, *just* like all his brothers, the Levites who stand there before Yahweh.

8 They shall eat equal portions, apart from what he may receive from the sale of his patrimony.

Divination and Sorcery Forbidden

9 “When you come to the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you, you must not learn to do like the detestable practices of those nations.

10 *There* shall not be found among you one who makes his son or his daughter go through the fire, *or* one who practices divination, *or* an interpreter of signs, *or* an augur, *or* sorcerer,

11 *or* one who casts magic spells, *or* one who consults *a* spirit of the dead, *or* spiritist, *or* one who inquires of the dead.

12 For everyone doing these *things is* detestable to Yahweh, and because of these detestable things Yahweh your God *is* driving them out from before you.

13 You must be blameless before Yahweh your God.

14 For these nations that you *are* about to dispossess listen to interpreters of signs and to diviners, but Yahweh your God has not allowed you to do the same.

The Coming Prophet—Christ

15 “Yahweh your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst, from your countrymen, *and* to him you shall listen. [[Acts 3:22–23](#)]

16 *This is* according to all that you asked from Yahweh your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘I do not want again to hear the voice of Yahweh my God, *and* I do not want to see again this great fire, so that I may not die!’

17 And Yahweh said to me, ‘They are right *in* what they have said.

18 I will raise up a prophet for them from among their countrymen like you, and I will place my words into his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him.

19 And then the man that will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I will hold accountable.

Identifying False Prophets

20 However, the prophet that behaves presumptuously by speaking a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, and who speaks in the name of other gods, then that prophet shall die.’

21 And if you say to yourself, ‘How can we know the word that Yahweh has not spoken to him?’

22 *Whenever* what the prophet spoke in the name of Yahweh, the thing does not take place and *does* not come *about*, that *is* the thing that Yahweh has not spoken to him. Presumptuously the prophet spoke it; you shall not fear that prophet.”

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